

**Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment**

**Operator:** Somont Oil Company, Inc.  
**Well Name/Number:** Roman Catholic Bishop #1  
**Location:** SE SE Section 13 T35N R4W  
**County:** Toole MT; Field (or Wildcat) Kevin Sunburst

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 4 to 5 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, single derrick drilling rig to drill to 2450' TD.

Possible H2S gas production: Slight. (Madison Formation)

In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area.

Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive): Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under 75-2-211.

Mitigation:

☒ Air quality permit (AQB review)

☐ Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: No special concerns – using small single derrick drilling rig to drill to 2450' TD.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: No, air, air mist drilling and freshwater mud system to be used.

High water table: No high water table anticipated.

Surface drainage leads to live water: No live water nearby. Nearest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to Rocky Springs Coulee, about ¼ of a mile to the north from this location.

Water well contamination: No, no water wells within 1 mile of this location.

Porous/permeable soils: No, silty rocky sandy bentonitic soils.

Class I stream drainage: No Class I stream drainages.

Mitigation:

☐ Lined reserve pit

☒ Adequate surface casing

☐ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage

☐ Closed mud system

☐ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: 200' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate. Also, fresh water air/mist systems to be used.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: No, stream crossings anticipated.

High erosion potential: Possible high erosion potential, moderate cut, up to 17.1' and moderate fill, up to 12.2', required.

Loss of soil productivity: No, location will be restored after drilling if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drill site will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: No, 200'X200' location size required.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is grazing land.

Conflict with existing land use/values: Slight

Mitigation

☐ Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)

☐ Exception location requested

☒ Stockpile topsoil

☐ Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)

☒ Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive

☐ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Will utilize existing county road, Rim Road and existing well access trails. Operator will construct about ¼ of a mile of new access road into this location from the existing access trail. Drilling fluids will be allowed to dry in the earthen pit and will be backfilled when dry. No special concerns.

### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: None nearby

Possibility of H2S: Slight H2S from Mississippian Formation.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Small drilling rig/short 3 to 5 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

☐ Proper BOP equipment

☐ Topographic sound barriers

☐ H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

\*\*\*\*

☒ Other: BOP requirement waived for depleted Madison Formation reservoir.

Comments: No concerns.

### Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites: None identified.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No

Threatened or endangered Species Listed threatened or endangered species in Toole County is the Black Footed Ferret. Species of concern is the Sprague's Pipit. NH

Tracker website lists zero (0) species of concern.

Mitigation:

☐ Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

☐ Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

☐ Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Surface is private land. There maybe species of concern that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to what he would like done, if a species of concern is discovered at this location. The Board of Oil & Gas has no jurisdiction over private surface lands.

### **Historical/Cultural/Paleontological**

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites None identified.

Mitigation

\_\_\_ avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)

X other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Surface is private land. There maybe possible historical/cultural/paleontological sites that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to his desires to preserve these sites or not, if they are found during construction of the wellsite. The Board of Oil & Gas has no jurisdiction over private surface lands.

### **Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)

\_\_\_ Substantial effect on tax base

\_\_\_ Create demand for new governmental services

\_\_\_ Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns. Existing oil field, Kevin Sunburst Oil & Gas Field.

### **Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 2450' Madison Formation test. A development well in the Kevin Sunburst Oil & Gas Field.

### **Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects**

No long term impacts expected, some short term impacts will occur.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/**does not**) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and (does/**does not**) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Prepared by (BOGC): Steven Sasaki

(title:) Chief Field Inspector

Date: March 8, 2012

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Toole County water wells

(subject discussed)

March 8, 2012

(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES

MONTANA COUNTIES, Toole County

(subject discussed)

March 8, 2012

(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)

(Name and Agency)

Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T35N R4W

(subject discussed)

March 8, 2012

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_

Others present during inspection: \_\_\_\_\_